(b) the reasons for resignation of scientists from DRDO;

(c) whether a financial, career and other institutional incentives were decided to be provided to the Defence scientists under the scheme framed in July, 2001;

(d) if so, the quantum of financial benefit provided to them under this scheme so far; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Most of the scientists leaving DRDO attribute personal/domestic, reasons while submitting their resignations. It may be true that some of them might have joined private companies in due course of time.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. After the Fifth Pay Commission, some incentives were given to the scientists, which include two additional increments, and Professional Update Allowance. A modified proposal for incentives to the scientists has been submitted for consideration to arrest the attrition. In addition, pay scales and other allowance/incentives has been submitted to Sixth Central Pay Commission.

Delay in completion of IAC at Cochin

2344. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's most ambitious ship building project, construction of a 37,500 tonne Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) at Cochin shipyard, is running way behind schedule;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that as per the current projections. IAC will be ready for delivery to Navy earliest by 2015, after completion of construction and trials instead of the earlier date of 2011-2012; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) the construction of Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) is progressing with the scheduled "launch" of the ship in 2010 at Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL). However, the final delivery of the ship may be delayed from the earlier likely delivery in 2012.

The delay is due to size and complexities in construction of an aircraft carrier, being designed and built indigenously for the first time at Cochin Shipyard Ltd. Besides, delay has also occurred due to delay in receipt of some critical materials such as steel from abroad.

Adequate funds required at this stage as per contract, have been provided to CSL for procurement of various material, equipment and towards yard-effort as per shipbuilding schedule, as also for infrastructure augmentation. The project is being reviewed at various levels to remove impediments, if any, expeditiously;